

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-10, 12, 19 and 20 are allowed.

Claims 11 and 13-18 have been rejected as anticipated by Evans et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* June 5, 1999 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and as obvious in view of Evans et al. (1999) and Wu et al. *PNAS* (1998).

The reference is authored by Evans, Benner and Xu where Evans and Xu are the named inventors on the above application. Jack Benner is in charge of the protein analysis service at New England Biolabs here involving Maldi-TOF Mass Spectrometry and amino acid sequencing on page 18361 and as such, he is not an inventor on the claimed invention. A 1.132 declaration is attached hereto establishing that the invention did not involve "another".

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reverse the prior art rejections that rely on this reference and allow the claims.

Evans et al.
App. No.: 09/937,070
Filing Date: January 29, 2002
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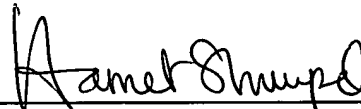
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for immediate allowance. Early and favorable consideration leading to prompt issuance of this Application is earnestly solicited.

Applicants petition for a three-month extension of time to file a response. A check in the amount of \$ 510 is enclosed, covering the fee for the extension. Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0740.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harriet Strimpel", is written over a horizontal line.

Harriet M. Strimpel, D.Phil.
(Reg. No.: 37,008)
Attorney for Applicant
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
(978) 380-7373

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Customer No.: 28986